

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2
January 22, 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Engle, Clair - Democrat - Senator from California

Home: Red Bluff, California

Born: Bakersfield, Kern County, California, September 21, 1911

Marital Status: Yes, one daughter.

Military: Army Air Force WW II - Korean Combat Participation. In Air Force Reserve, active status (Colonel). Mobilization assignment is SAFLL (Legislative Liaison). Also, member of the 9999th Air Reserve Squadron.

Education: Chico State College (LL.B); University of California and Hastings College of Law.

Profession: Lawyer

Experience: District Attorney of Tehama County (1934); reelected in 1938. State Senator (1942). Representative in the 78th Congress, unexpired term; reelected to 79th to 85th Congresses. U.S. Senate 1959.

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: National Stockpile)

Commerce (Subcommittees: No. 3 - Aviation; No. 4)

Small Business (Subcommittees: Monopoly; Financing)

Board of Visitors - Merchant Marine Academy

Bases: Ballistic Missile Division; Beale AFB, Titan Sites (Sutter), Castle AFB, Edwards AFB, George AFB, and Hamilton AFB. March AFB, Mather AFB, McClellan AFB, Norton AFB, Oxnard AFB, Travis AFB, Vandenberg.

Remarks: has followed a moderate liberal line. Flies as both a military and civilian pilot. Shows concern that general aviation and private pilots will be grounded if complicated radar equipment is made mandatory. (Con. Record March 11, 1959)

86th Congress: Strong supporter of unification of the Services. Made Senate floor speech on his suggestion that the present DOD organization structure be abolished. We eliminate designations of the Army, Navy and AF, and Marine Corps as service designations, and that DOD be reorganized on basis of functions and missions.

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Unification -- Proposed: A retaliatory striking force; a limited war force; a continental defense force; a logistical command. Also, replacement of present Joint Chiefs of Staff with a single chief of staff aided by a general staff. (Cong. Record August 28, 1959)

B-70 -- On January 11, 1960 he urged reversal of the decision to reorient the B-70 Weapons System to a prototype aircraft program. Called upon Congress to make it clear that full scale development of the B-70 and all its essential subsystems be continued at full speed, properly funded, even if this involves some reorganization of priorities. Discussed various missions of B-70. Said: "Until we develop and have operational a large force of ICBM's which either are mobile, or can be hidden, we will not have that undestructable retaliatory striking force whic is the keystone of our security."

During FY60 Appropriations debate - agreed with Sen. Jackson - re: invulnerable military deterrent (Polaris submarines). Said: "I hope that we will move just as fast as we can, not only to get the Minuteman, but to get more of the Polaris than we have." Favors strengthening our conventional forces for limited warfare as a second priority and anti-submarine defenses as third priority.

Single Service -- Feb 26, 1960 called for further reorganization of DOD - "The Continental defense force would take over the air defense of the U.S. and the question of whether the Army or AF should man the Nikes, Bomarc, and the Zeus anti-missile missiles would disappear. The new command would operate all weapons." Thinks that the establishment of a single Chief of Staff at an early date would help. Under such a system he said the direction of research and development would be merged, some budgetary saving would be made. When asked how long it would take up put this simplification plan into action, Senator Engle answered about 5 years. (Cong. Record Feb. 26, 1960 Page 3301)

During FY61 DOD appropriations debate - commended Sen. Robertson's (Va.) remarks on need for B-70 bomber. Said: "It would be absurd if we failed to develop this phenomenal weapons system." (Cong. Record June 16, 1960 P 11955)

87th Congress -- comments --

Defense Contracts - said Calif. sympathizes with labor-surplus areas stating that it is a matter of national concern -- "But I certainly do not believe that the circumstances of substantial surplus labor should be used as a major or private factor in making a plea for more defense contracts." Explained advantages Calif. possesses in having defense orders. In defending prime contracts for California, said: "For our survival we must purchase defense programs on the basis of maximum defense potential for each dollar expended. The Department of Defense should not be hamstrung by statutory responsibility for advancing political, social, economic, or psychological objectives not directly related to the quality and quantity and speed of the defense effort." (Cong. Record April 24, 1961 Page 6190)

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Senate Authorization hearings excerpts - Procurement of aircraft, missiles, Naval vessels April 1961:

Asked Sec. McNamara if it wouldn't be more intelligent to put the stretchout of the B-70 at the other end rather than on the front end? Ough we not get it as fast as we can efficiently, get it into the arsenal, get it on the shelf, and then review whether or not we want 15, or 50, or 150 or whatever, but put the stretchout at the far end rather than the front end? The Sec. answered that he didn't believe so -- lose one year's time for approximately a saving of \$1,400 million. (P 75) Sen. Engle said it was consensus of opinion of the committee that manned bombers will be necessary for a long time to come; and, that being true, that we shall purchase the ones which are immediately subject to procurement, without prejudice to the B-70, because the B-70 is the next bomber in the line of production and is the next generation of manned bombers in the arsenal of our Nation, and that we shall do what we can expedite, speedup, and bring into the arsenal of our country at the earliest possible moment the B-70, as a complete weapons system subject to procurement sometime in the future, under a bill such as the one now under consideration. (Cong. Record May 15, 1961, P 7409)

Supersonic Transport -- during debate of Independent Offices Budget for FY62 supported funds for supersonic transport development. Said it is a matter of far reaching importances. We must have this development in order for US to maintain leadership in commercial aviation. "We have under development the B-70, a large mach 3 strategic bomber, the first prototype of which is scheduled to fly in December 1962. . . . The suggested time schedule is phased to get the benefit from the B-70 program. Supersonic transport construction would not start until approximately 1 year after first flight of the B-70 prototype. . . . It is fair to ask why the B-70 engine cannot be used for a transport. The engines for the B-70 are being developed and designed specifically for the military mission." (Cong. Record July 29, 1961 Page 13015)

Manned Bombers -- floor debate of DOD FY62 budget - said: certainly it makes sense, until we have an operational missile and one which we can rely on, to maintain a manned bomber force. (Cong. Record August 3, 1961 P 13486)

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